

What is claimed is:

1. ~~Seed of maize inbred line NP2171 having been deposited under ATCC Accession No: \_\_\_\_\_.~~

2. ~~A maize plant, or parts thereof, of inbred line NP2171, seed of said line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No: \_\_\_\_\_.~~

3. Pollen of the plant of claim 2.

4. An ovule of the plant of claim 2.

5. ~~A maize plant, or parts thereof, having all the physiological and morphological characteristics of a plant according to claim 2.~~

6. ~~A male sterile maize plant, or parts thereof, otherwise having all the physiological and morphological characteristics of a plant according to claim 2.~~

7. ~~A maize plant, or parts thereof, according to claim 2, further comprising one or more single gene transferred traits.~~

8. ~~A maize plant, or parts thereof, according to claim 7, wherein the plant or parts thereof have been transformed so that its genetic material contains one or more transgenes operably linked to one or more regulatory elements.~~

9. ~~A maize plant according to claim 7, wherein said single gene transferred trait comprises a gene conferring upon said maize plant tolerance to a herbicide.~~

10. ~~A maize plant according to claim 9, wherein said herbicide is glyphosate, gluphosinate, a sulfonylurea or an imidazolinone herbicide, a hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase inhibitor or a protoporphyrinogen oxidase inhibitor.~~

11. A maize plant according to claim 7, wherein said single gene transferred trait comprises a gene conferring upon said maize plant insect resistance, disease resistance or virus resistance.

12. A maize plant according to claim 11, wherein said gene conferring upon said maize plant insect resistance is a *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry1Ab gene.

13. A maize plant according to claim 12, further comprising a *bar* gene.

14. A maize plant according to claim 12, wherein said Cry1Ab gene is introgressed into said maize plant from a maize line comprising a Bt-11 event or a 176 event.

15. Seed of a plant according to claim 7.

16. A tissue culture of regenerable cells of a maize plant according to claim 2, wherein the tissue regenerates plants capable of expressing all the morphological and physiological characteristics of plants according to claim 2.

17. A tissue culture according to claim 16, the regenerable cells being selected from the group consisting of embryos, meristems, pollen, leaves, anthers, roots, root tips, silk, flowers, kernels, ears, cobs, husks and stalks, or being protoplasts or callus derived therefrom.

18. A maize plant regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 16, capable of expressing all the morphological and physiological characteristics of inbred line NP2171, seed of said inbred line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No: \_\_\_\_\_.

19. A method for producing maize seed comprising crossing a first parent maize plant with a second parent maize plant and harvesting the resultant first generation maize seed, wherein said first or second parent maize plant is the inbred maize plant of claim 2.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said first parent maize plant is different from said second parent maize plant, wherein said resultant seed is a first generation (F1) hybrid maize seed.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein inbred maize plant of claim 2 is the female parent.

22. A method according to claim 19, wherein inbred maize plant of claim 2 is the male parent.

23. An F1 hybrid seed produced by the method of claim 20.

24. An F1 hybrid plant, or parts thereof, grown from the seed of claim 23.

25. A method for producing maize seed comprising crossing a first parent maize plant with a second parent maize plant and harvesting the resultant first generation maize seed, wherein said first or second parent maize plant is the inbred maize plant of claim 5.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein said first parent maize plant is different from said second parent maize plant, wherein said resultant seed is a first generation (F1) hybrid maize seed.

27. A method according to claim 25, wherein inbred maize plant of claim 5 is the female parent.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein inbred maize plant of claim 5 is the male parent.

29. An F1 hybrid seed produced by the method of claim 26.

30. An F1 hybrid plant, or parts thereof, grown from the seed of claim 29.

31. A method for producing maize seed comprising crossing a first parent maize plant with a second parent maize plant and harvesting the resultant first generation maize seed,  
5 wherein said first or second parent maize plant is the inbred maize plant of claim 7.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein said first parent maize plant is different from said second parent maize plant, wherein said resultant seed is a first generation (F1) hybrid maize seed.

33. A method according to claim 31, wherein inbred maize plant of claim 7 is the female parent.

34. A method according to claim 31, wherein inbred maize plant of claim 7 is the  
15 ~~male parent~~.

35. An F1 hybrid seed produced by the method of claim 32.

36. An F1 hybrid plant, or parts thereof, grown from the seed of claim 35.

37. A method comprising:

(a) planting a collection of seed comprising seed of a hybrid, one of whose parents is a plant according to claim 2, or a maize plant having all the physiological and morphological characteristics of a plant according to claim 2, said collection also  
25 comprising seed of said inbred line;

(b) growing plants from said collection of seed;

(c) identifying said inbred plants;

(d) selecting said inbred plant; and

(e) controlling pollination in a manner which preserves the homozygosity of said  
30 inbred plant.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein said one parent is a plant of inbred maize line NP2171, further comprising a single gene transferred trait.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein said step of identifying said inbred plant comprises identifying plants with decreased vigor.

40. A method comprising introgressing a single gene trait into inbred maize line NP2171, seed of said line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No: \_\_\_\_\_, using one or more markers for marker assisted selection among maize lines to be used in a maize breeding program, the markers being associated with a single gene trait, wherein the resulting maize line is inbred maize line NP2171 further comprising said single gene transferred trait.

41. A method according to claim 40, wherein said a single gene trait comprises a Cry1Ab gene.

42. A NP2171-derived maize plant, or parts thereof, wherein at least one ancestor of said maize plant is the maize plant of claim 2, said maize plant expressing a combination of at least two NP2174 traits selected from the group consisting of: a relative maturity of approximately 85 to 105 days based on the Comparative Relative Maturity Rating System for harvest moisture of grain, acceptable to good grain quality, good Eyespot resistance, good Common Rust resistance, average First Brood Corn Borer resistance, good Second Brood Corn Borer resistance, average early growth, good seedling vigor, early pollen shed, reliable late season plant health, average pollen shed, improved stalk strength and resistance to stalk diseases, acceptable late season intactness, and adapted to the Northern Cornbelt regions of the United States.